




DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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September 6, 2017

TO: Forest Practice Board members

FROM: Joe Shramek, Forest Practices Division Manager 

SUBJECT: **Process and status of work for developing water typing potential habitat barrier recommendations**

The Forest Practices Board (Board), at its August 2017 meeting, provided direction and expectations for:

- Additional analysis of data from eastern and western Washington by a scientific panel convened by the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA) culminating in recommendations to the Board at its February 2018 meeting for “potential habitat breaks” (PHBs) that will serve as an integral component of a permanent water typing system.
- Work by the same scientific panel to develop and recommend to the Board a study design for validating the PHBs.

This memo describes the process through which this work will be completed for the Board’s February 2018 meeting, including the main ways by which regular, timely information will be provided to you and other TFW participants; it also provides a summary of progress made during August.

Communication will be provided in four structured ways:

- Directly to you through memos such as this one and at your November Board meeting;
- To the TFW Policy Committee, through informational updates at monthly meetings from the AMPA and DNR (as staff to the Board);
- Through interaction between the scientific panel and the stakeholder technical committee, by which the scientific panel will seek input about work products before they are finalized; and
- Through the Board’s website for published documents and data.

Attachment 1 outlines the major elements of production plans developed to guide both projects¹. Both provide milestones between the August 2017 and February 2018 Board meetings. I'm sending the plans to provide a degree of certainty about when certain work products and informational updates can be expected. Ultimately, the objective is that you will feel well-informed and prepared to deliberate with other Board members at the February 2018 meeting about PHB options that will come before you from the scientific panel.

Status of PHB recommendation development

During the month since your decisions at the August Board meeting, the AMPA (Hans Berge) has been hard at work with members of the scientific panel and others developing production plans, preparing contracts, and drafting methodology for selecting of sample data for analysis and ensuring its quality before and during use. The initial preparatory work has been completed (*Attachment 1*), and will be shared with the stakeholder technical committee in early September before being finalized. Sample "F/N break" data will be drawn from the population of approved water type modification forms. Samples will be randomly selected and analyzed for each of the state's nine ecoregions. The panel's draft methodology (including QA/QC) will presented and discussed with the stakeholder technical committee in early September and, when finalized, published by DNR.

Data extraction and creation of a database will be completed during September and October. Under supervision by panel members, this work will be accomplished by DNR staff and representatives from two tribes from eastern Washington and one from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)(volunteers from other caucuses have been invited and remain welcome). The panel intends to meet twice with the stakeholder technical committee during this period. The objective is to finish the database by late October, with analysis to begin thereafter. The database will be published on the Board's website by DNR once complete.

Status of PHB validation study design development

Work in August focused on developing a charter to guide the development of the study design. The scientific panel will meet in mid-September, with drafting of the study design scheduled for October (*Attachment 1*).

In closing, as staff to the Board I am committed to helping ensure that you have the information needed to feel confident in the process that will unfold between now and February, and

¹ The production plans provide a general sense of the sequence of specific functions and communications. It should be recognized that actual timing and activities may be adjusted to reflect changing knowledge and circumstances.

encourage you to contact Hans or me if you have questions or concerns. I will provide another written status update in October, and Hans will update you at the Board's November 8th meeting.

Attachment

cc: Hans Berge, DNR Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program Administrator
Marc Engel, DNR Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager for Policy and Services

Production Schedule for Accomplishing Forest Practices Board Tasks Related to Elements of a Permanent Water Typing System

6 September 2017

(Note: communication elements are shown in **blue** and key milestones in **bold**)

Overview

Month	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
PHB	Criteria	Data Entry	Data Entry	Analysis	Report	Revise	Board
PHB Study Design	-----Develop-----			ISPR	ISPR	Revise	Board

Development of Potential Habitat Break recommendations

AUGUST

- GIS points and attribute table for F/N breaks and associated WTMFs statewide
- Establish criteria for selecting WTMFs for eastern and western ecoregions

SEPTEMBER

- **Communication to FPB members about process and status (early Sept)**
- **Brief stakeholder technical committee on process steps and approach (early Sept)**
- **Sample draw is taken of F/N breaks and shared with data team**
- Data team works to extract data from WTMFs and enter into database
- QA/QC of data (continuous)

OCTOBER

- **Communication to FPB members about process and status (early Oct)**
- **Informational update at October TFW Policy meeting**
- Data team works to extract data from WTMFs and enter into database
- QA/QC of data (continuous)
- **Panel meets with Stakeholder technical committee after data entry is completed (end of Oct)**

NOVEMBER

- **Report to the Board on progress**
- **Final QA/QC of database**
- **Analysis of PHB criteria data**
- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Draft PHB criteria report**
- **Draft shared with stakeholder technical committee for review and comment**

DECEMBER

- **Panel meets with Stakeholder technical committee to review draft report around Dec 10th**
- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**

- **Revise report**
- **Status report to FPB members**

JANUARY

- **Review final report**
- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Submit report and recommendations to Board on or before mailing date (31 January 2018)**

FEBRUARY

- **Policy presentation (Feb 1st)**
- **Board presentation on recommendations/discussion (Feb 14th)**

Development of PHB Validation Study Design

SEPTEMBER

- **Initiate study design (13 September)**
- **Meet with stakeholders to discuss objectives and considerations of the study**

OCTOBER

- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Status report to FPB members (late Oct)**
- **Complete draft study design, including budget**

NOVEMBER

- **Provide draft study design to stakeholder technical committee**
- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Report to the Board on progress**
- **ISPR for review**

DECEMBER

- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Revise based on comments from ISPR (when available)**
- **Status report to FPB members**

JANUARY

- **ISPR approval of revisions**
- **Informational update at monthly TFW Policy meeting**
- **Submit to Board for review and acceptance by mailing date (31 January 2018)**

FEBRUARY

- **Policy presentation (Feb 1st)**
- **Board presentation/discussion (Feb 14th)**